

REMARKS

Claims 2-27 remain in this application. Claim 1 has been canceled. Claims 2, 8, 10-17, 20-21 and 23-26 have been amended. Claim 27 has been added. By these amendments, no new matter has been added.

The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 2-9, 11, 17, 19-20 and 22-24. Claim 2 has been amended to incorporate all the limitations of base Claim 1, which is now canceled. The remaining claims have been amended, to the extent necessary, to depend from Claim 2 or from an intervening dependent claim. Claim 27 has been added to define the subject matter formerly defined by Claim 17 and its base Claim 1, and Claim 17 has been amended to depend from Claim 2.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 10, 12, 14-16, 18, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) or 103(a) over Cooper; and Claims 13 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Cooper. In view of the amendments to the claims, these rejections are moot. All of Claims 2-26 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 2 and its base Claim 1, which the Examiner has indicated should be allowable. Claim 17 incorporates the limitations of Claim 17 and its base Claim 1, which the Examiner has also indicated as allowable.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 2-27 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested, and a timely Notice of Allowability is solicited.

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To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions the Commissioner for a one-month extension of time, extending to October 28, 2004, the period for response to the Office Action dated June 28, 2004. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0639.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BB' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

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